

BLESSINGS OF PEACE

The early Greeks had a very clear discernment of the waste and extravagance of war and the horrors and destitution which follow it. This is seen in their detestation of Ares, their professional war-god, and the ridicule which their poets vent upon him. But it has an especially fine expression in the fact that they made Eirene, the happy, joyous goddess of peace, to become the mother of Pluto, their god of wealth. This is their way of saying to all posterity that only in tranquil, peaceful times do prosperity and riches come to abide with men. The Romans expressed the same thought in their figure of Pax, whom they worshiped and represented on their coinage as a youthful woman holding in her left arm the cornucopia, or Horn of Plenty, and in her right an olive branch. Dean Inge, a recent visitor to America from England, congratulated this country upon the fact that our wealth could be turned to the exploitation of our immense resources while Europe must spend the most of its income in supporting great war machines. And yet there are those who would turn our Armistice Day for the celebration of peace into a gesture of war.—Rev. George MacAdam, D.D.

PASTORAL PRAYER (Armistice Sunday): Almighty God, Father of humanity, to whom all nations are dear, humbly, reverently, we lift up our hearts in prayer. Through a long night of strife and sorrow unutterable thou has led us to the dawn of a new day of peace, and we praise thee and give thanks. How wonderful are thy ways upon the earth, chastening, subduing, lifting up, and casting down nations in this judgment hour of history. Hush thou the clamor of our thoughts, quiet the fever of our hearts, that we may be still and know that thou art God, working out thy mighty will in the midst of human tragedy.

O thou who keepest covenant with justice and hast shown us thy power in the triumph of right over might, purify our hearts and establish our minds in justice and good-will. Thou hast called us to share with thee in the order and rule of the world; move upon the wills of men everywhere, and lead the peoples into paths of unity and faithfulness. Endue us with wisdom, O Lord, that we may discern the way of thy will and walk in it; inspire us with a passion for the reign of righteousness and the practice of justice.

Before thee, O Lord, each nation, each soul, is laid bare, stripped of all disguise; try us and see if there be any evil way in us, search us and